

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Fayette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 16 1973	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Canal House
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Same

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 111 East Fourth Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Connersville			
STATE Indiana	CODE 18	COUNTY: Fayette	CODE 041

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Historic Connersville, Inc.			
STREET AND NUMBER: 111 East Fourth St.			
CITY OR TOWN: Connersville	STATE: Indiana	CODE 18	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Fayette County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Central Ave			
CITY OR TOWN: Connersville	STATE: Indiana	CODE 18	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

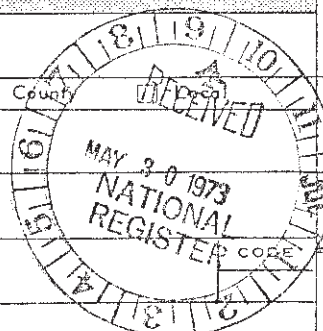
STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canal House was built in 1842 by the Whitewater Valley Canal Co. It is the best preserved temple-type structure in the state. Authentic Greek proportions, strong pediment, wide entablature board clearly divided into horizontal bands (architrave and frieze), and fluted columns resting, without bases, on the pavement of the porch, are in the best antique Doric tradition. Since the pillar faced Greek Revival trend was very strong in Indiana during 1835-1850, it seems that the company used the design of the day for that time.

The front door opens on the right side of the porch into a foyer, 7'6"x4'8". The second white hardwood door opens into a hall 8'9"x32'6". The hardwood stairway leading to the second floor is intact and will be restored. The first room on the left is 13'x18'6" and was not changed from the original. This room contains a fire place and one of the two steel wall safes used by the Canal Company. The second room is 13'6"x11'6" and also contains an original safe. The second room was modernized with two rest rooms but these have been taken out. These front two rooms will be restored with wallpaper and period furniture of the 1840's. The rear room, 14'x15'6", will be used as living quarters for a custodian.

The second floor has an open room 18'6"x37'9" and will be used as an art gallery. A rest room 3'9"x7', will be retained and an area 9'x16'3" will be made into a food preparation area so that ladies' groups may use the second floor.

The stone walled basement will remain intact and be used as a museum and souvenir shop.

The building was completely restored by Congressman and Mrs. Finly H. Gray who lived there from 1936 to 1947 and sold after their deaths to the local V.F.W. Modern additions were made by the V.F.W. but these have been taken out by Historic Connersville. Many of the period furnishings have been found which were in the building during the time the Grays lived there and will be returned.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1842

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☒ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☒ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☒ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☒ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

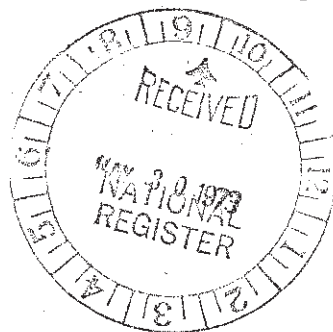
Connersville as a village had its start in 1808 when John Conner, a fur trader and Indian treaty maker for General William Henry Harrison, established an Indian trading post. As settlers arrived and the land was cleared, the fertile valley began to supply a steady amount of farm produce. The market for this produce was Cincinnati, Ohio, sixty miles away, and it took drovers and wagonmen a great deal of time over unstable roads and trails to reach market.

Just twenty years after Indiana became a state in 1816, the legislature enacted a mammoth Internal Improvements Act covering roads, canals, and railroads. The Whitewater Valley received one of three canals in the state. Digging of the Whitewater Canal was started but the state ran into trouble and construction was stopped in 1839. A private company to be known as the Whitewater Valley Canal Co. was chartered and construction started again. Canal House was built in 1842 by the new private company and served as its headquarters through 1853.

The Savings Bank of Indiana used Canal House for a short time then it was used as a private dwelling for a number of years.

The debt incurred by canal building in Indiana made a lasting impression on citizens of the Hoosier State and affected economic decisions in later state laws and government.

Restoration of Canal House is underway and, when completed, will give visitors and local people a chance to see how the people of Indiana endured a stormy period of their history.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1938 Mrs. Finly H. Gray "Old Canal House"
 1962 Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Wilbur Peat
 Described as the best example of Greek Revival in the
 State.
 Jan. 7, 1966 Indianapolis Star Historic Connersville.
 1972 Indiana Canals by Paul Fatout

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"	39°	38'	04" 24
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"	85°	08'	09" 73
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.1 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Indiana	18	Fayette	041
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Henry H. Blommel Chairman	
ORGANIZATION: Historic Connersville, Inc	DATE: March 5, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: 111 East Fourth St.	
CITY OR TOWN: Connersville	STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name: Joseph D. Celand

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: May 22 - 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/16/73

ATTEST:

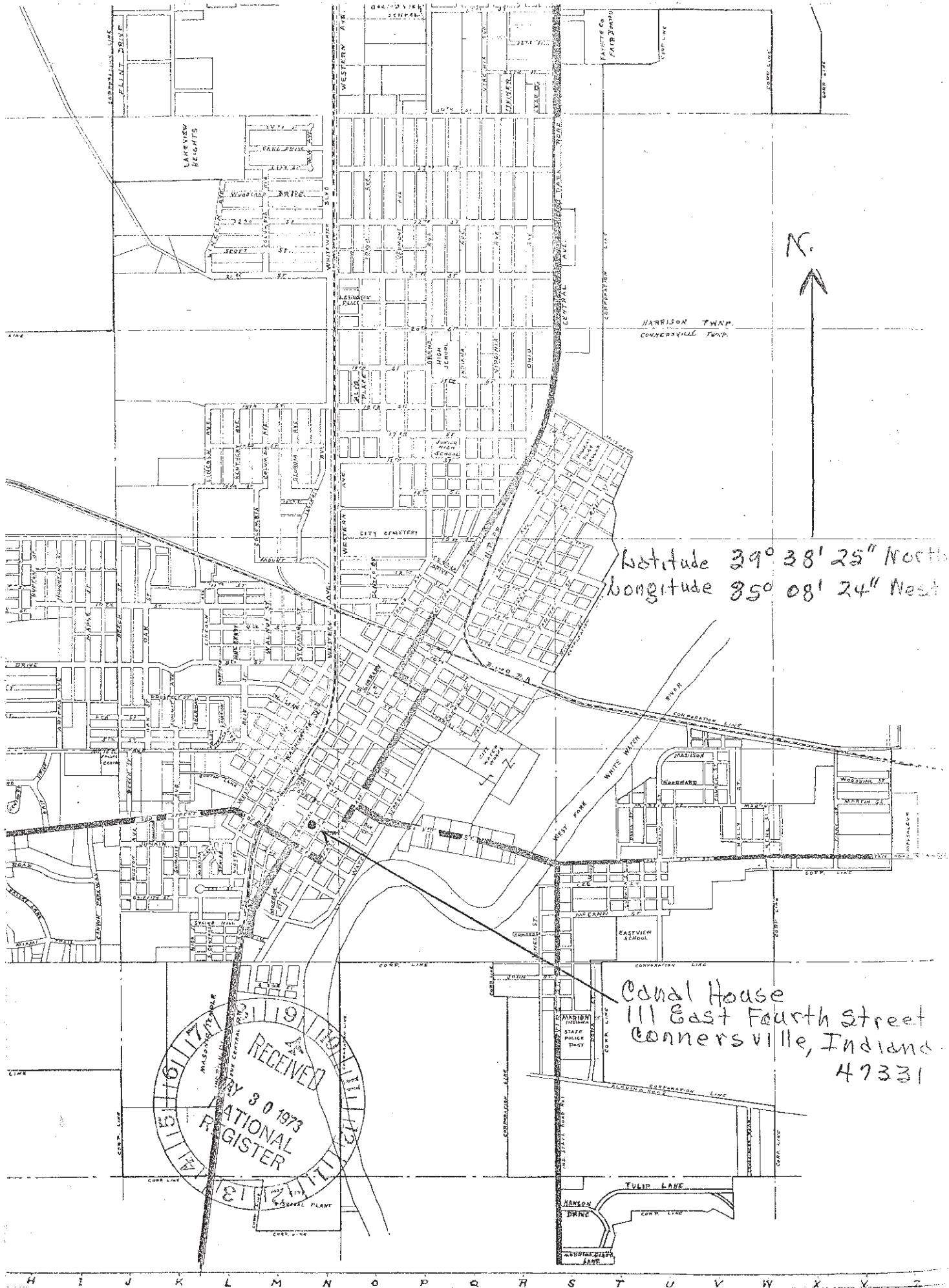
W. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7 9 73

NO DATA

CF

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Latitude $39^{\circ} 38' 25''$ North
Longitude $85^{\circ} 08' 24''$ West

Canal House
111 East Fourth Street
Connorsville, Indiana
47331

RECEIVED
MAY 30 1973
NATIONAL REGISTER